



WISCONSIN REGULATORY DIGEST

A Publication of the

Volume, No.

DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

DECEMBER, 1998

TITLE?

Chapter DE12 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code contains the rules governing delegation of duties to unlicensed persons; (i.e., dental assistants). A dentist may delegate a procedure that is deemed remediable, meaning any harm that may be caused by the unlicensed person can be reversed. Supragingival rubber cup and air polishing is considered to be a remediable procedure, so, therefore, can be delegated to an unlicensed person. However, there are some very important provisions that the dentist must be aware of:

1. It is the dentist's responsibility to train or verify the training of the person.

THE WISCONSIN DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

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2. Supragingival polishing by an unlicensed person is not an oral prophylaxis, only a part of it.
3. Preliminary assessments, dental hygiene treatment planning, oral screenings, oral prophylaxes, scaling and root planning, and dental scalents are not delegatable to unlicensed persons, as stated in DE12.01(3).

The delegation of supragingival polishing to an unlicensed person can increase the efficiency of a dental practice by allowing the dentist and/or dental hygienist more time to deliver patient care that can not be delegated. However, it is the dentist's responsibility to properly train and supervise the unlicensed person and to strictly adhere to the rules of DE12.

TITLE?

As the public member of the screening panel for the Dentistry Examining Board, I know that quite a number of complaints we receive are simply caused by lack of communication, misinformation or misunderstanding. A substantial number of these complaints could have been prevented. It seems ironic that in this age of "super communication" with faxes, cell

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phone and e-mail that there are so many problems with communication. The phrase may be a little worn at this point, but still true “if it isn’t written down, it didn’t happen”. We cannot stress strongly enough the need to communicate (it may sometimes seem **over-**communicate) to our patients (and their parents). I’m afraid that some may get tired of hearing about “informed consent”, but the fact of the matter is that some of these issues can be avoided before they damage professional relationships. The time to address these issues in your practice is **BEFORE** a problem has a chance to get out of hand.

The other side of this coin is that patients, too, have a responsibility to communicate, and to make sure they understand what is going on. They have a responsibility to make sure they have a complete understanding of policies, procedures, treatment plans and changes to treatment plans, fees, co-payments, etc. The problem that we, as a Board, face is that we do not have any mechanism to address these issues with them. This makes it imperative that the credential holder take **MORE** than their share of responsibility for communication.

In your continual efforts at improved practice management, this is certainly an area that demands close scrutiny.

JAMES J. THORPE, D.M.D.

DEFOREST WI

EDUCATION

Utilized Valium in his dental surgical practice at Oakhill Correctional Facility without keeping records of the name of the substance, dosage form, strength or quantity. Issued prescription orders for Diazepam for “stock supply” for the facility. Such practice is prohibited. Complete a 44 hour course by 3/31/99. Under the tutelage of an approved mentor, he shall insure that the dental records system in use complies with requirements. Ordered to pay costs of \$400. Effective 9/2/98. Sec. 447.07(3)(L), Stats., Phar 8.04(2). Case #LS9803301DEN.

CRAIG W. MOON, R.PH., D.D.S.

PEWAUKEE WI SUSPENDED AT LEAST
5 YEARS

Convicted on 5/14/98 of two counts of misdemeanor theft, and one count of possessing an illegally obtained prescription drug, all relating to his practice as a pharmacist and relating to his obtaining controlled substances without a prescription from another practitioner for his own use. Suspended at least 5 years. Suspension is stayed for four months with limitations imposed. Reprimanded. Pay costs of \$100. Effective 11/4/98. Sec. 447.07(3)(a)(e), Stats., DE 5.02(15)(16) Case #LS9811041DEN

JOE SHARKUS, D.D.S.

CAMBRIDGE WI

EDUCATION

On 11/5/97 he was required to complete continuing education. He failed to do so. He has now completed that education. Pay costs of \$200 and a forfeiture of \$1,000. Effective 11/9/98. Case #LS9811092DEN

Disciplinary Actions

Most current copy: 12/15/98 a.m.

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Dentistry Examining Board
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Wisconsin Statutes and Code:

Copies of the #1 Statutes and Administrative Code can be ordered from the Department. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The latest Edition is dated #2.

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WIS. STATS. S. 440.11 ALLOWS FOR A \$50 PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

Most current copy: 12/15/98 a.m.

1999 Board Meeting Dates

March 3, 1999; May 5, 1999; July 7, 1999

May 5, 1999

July 7, 1999

September 1, 1999

November 3, 1999

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